AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Before claim 1, change ~~Claims~~ to I CLAIM:

Cancel claims 1-34 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute new claims 35-69 therefor:

Claims 1-34 (cancelled)

35. (new) Self-closing valve (V) for dispensing a product, including a liquid or pasty product (6), the valve having a valve diaphragm (1), the valve diaphragm (1) being of convex shape, as seen from the product side, at least in the dispensing region (2); and wherein the valve diaphragm (1) has, on its periphery, a holding ring (5) which is formed by encapsulation.

36. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the valve diaphragm (1) has a dispensing slit (4), walls (4') of the dispensing slit (4) opening in a gap-like manner on the product side.

37. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 36, wherein the gap base (8), and the slit walls (4') butt against one another.

38. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the convex shape resists inner stressing to which the valve diaphragm (1) is subjected.

39. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the valve diaphragm (1) is of convex shape throughout as far as the peripheral region (9).

40. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the holding ring (5) is formed in a cross-sectionally U-shaped form in order to enclose an outer periphery (10) of the valve diaphragm (1).

41. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein, extending from the holding ring (5), are securing spigots (11) which engage through the valve diaphragm (1).

42. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 40, wherein the U-legs (12, 13) of the holding ring (5) are formed to be of different lengths.

43. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 42, wherein the U-leg (12) of the holding ring (5), which is directed away from the product, is formed to be longer than the U-leg (13), which is directed toward the product.

44. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the holding ring (5) has a latching recess (19) for latching the valve (V) into a dispensing container (14).

45. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 44, wherein the latching recess (19) is associated with the U-web (24).

46. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the valve diaphragm (1) consists of silicone.

47. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 46, wherein the valve diaphragm (1) consists of TPE.

48. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the valve diaphragm (1) is produced with the holding ring (5) by two-component injection molding.

49. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the valve diaphragm (1) consists of a plastics sheet material.

50. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 49, wherein the plastics sheet material is multilayered.

51. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 50, wherein the plastics sheet material is a material combination of the multilayered plastics sheet material.

52. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein, on the product side, the valve diaphragm (1), in its dispensing region (2), has a plate part (25) positioned beneath it.

53. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 52, wherein the plate part (25) is formed integrally with the holding ring (5).

54. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 52, wherein the plate part (25) is attached resiliently relative to the valve diaphragm (1).

55. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 52, wherein the plate part (25) is attached to the holding ring (5) outside a dispensing slit (4) of the valve diaphragm (1) in the radial direction.

56. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 55, wherein the dispensing slit (4), along a diameter extent, projects beyond the region of overlap with the plate part (25).

57. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 52, wherein on its surface (26), which is directed toward the valve diaphragm (1), the plate part (25) is of curved configuration in adaptation to the convex profile of the valve diaphragm (1).

58. (new) Self-closing valve according claim 52, wherein, with the exception of resilient attachment arms (28), the holding ring (5) has an outline in plan view which differs from the circular shape of the plate part (25).

59. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 35, wherein the radius of curvature of the valve diaphragm corresponds approximately to 0.8 to 1.4 times the chord height of the spherical segment shell of the edge-secured valve diaphragm (1).

60. (new) Self-closing valve according to claim 52, wherein the plate part (25) is disposed such that it can be moved relative to the valve diaphragm (1).

61. (new) Container closure according to claim 35, wherein, integrally formed on the container closure is a swing lid (32) which, in the closed state, acts on the valve diaphragm (1) by way of a holding-down means (36).

62. (new) Container closure with a plate part according to claim 52, wherein the plate part (25) and integrally formed resilient attachment arms (28) can be pressed against one another with closing action so as to prevent substance from escaping.

63. (new) Container closure according to claim 62, wherein the plate part (25) and the resilient arms (28) attached thereto can be adjusted in relation to one another such

that a closed state is achieved independently of the valve diaphragm (1).

64. (new) Container closure according to claim 62, wherein, integrally formed on the plate part (25) is a radially outwardly projecting closure shield (43) against which the resilient attachment arm (28) can be drawn with closing action.

65. (new) Container closure according to claim 62, wherein, integrally formed on the holding ring (5) and/or a wall (44) of the dispensing container (B) is an inwardly projecting closure shield (45) against which a resilient attachment arm (28) can be drawn with closing action.

66. (new) Container closure according to claim 62, wherein, formed on a resilient attachment arm (28) is a guide flange (46) which projects on the product side and interacts with a run-on slope (47) of a wall (44) of the dispensing container (B).

67. (new) Self-closing valve (V) for dispensing a product which is a liquid or pasty product (6), having a valve diagram (1), wherein the valve diaphragm (1) has, on the periphery, a holding ring (5) and, wherein, further the

holding ring (5) has a latching recess (19) for latching the valve (V) into a dispenser container (14).

68. (new) Self-closing valve (V) for dispensing a product, including a liquid or pasty product (6), the valve having a valve diaphragm (1), the valve diaphragm (1) being of convex shape, as seen from the product side, at least in the dispensing region (2); and wherein the valve diaphragm (1) has, on its periphery, a holding ring (5) which encloses a periphery of the valve diaphragm.

69. (new) The combination of a self-closing valve (V) and a container for dispensing a product, including a liquid or pasty product (6), the valve having a valve diaphragm (1), the valve diaphragm (1) being of convex shape, as seen from the product side, at least in the dispensing region (2); and wherein the valve diaphragm (1) has, on its periphery, a holding ring (5) which encloses a periphery of the valve diaphragm and secures the valve diaphragm to the container.